

WILL YOU JOIN US?

Our Annual “Movie Night Gala”
at The Charles Theatre

When Seeing a Movie Makes a Difference!

Monday, May 21

Reception starts at 5:45 pm

Showtimes vary, starting at 7 pm

\$75 per ticket or \$100 per Patron ticket

(a portion is tax-deductible)

To purchase your tickets online, go to:
samaritancommunity.org



You can make a big impact on a person's life by simply going to the movies. Please join Samaritan Community at this annual fundraiser at the historic Charles Theatre. Savor delicious food from Tapas Teatro, enjoy a movie of your choice, and win a fantastic item (or two!) at our highly-anticipated silent auction.

We hope to see you at the movies!



At Samaritan Community, Friendships Blossom Even at the Darkest of Times



Irene brings Sharon white and yellow roses representing the pure friendships she has found at Samaritan.

Recently, Sharon Krieger, Program Director at Samaritan, came into the office to find a huge bouquet of roses awaiting her. They were from Irene, a Samaritan member who came to us five years ago, shortly after her husband became very ill. His illness left him paralyzed and unable to keep his job as a service technician at an oil change center. It also meant he and Irene were in dire-straits.

At Samaritan, Irene was able to receive groceries, assistance with utilities and rent, as well as help moving into a wheelchair-accessible apartment. She now works part-time as a private duty-aid to seniors, and still participates in

our “Breakfast Club” and “Women Together” support groups when her schedule allows.

“The friendships I have made at Samaritan Community with both staff and members have sustained me through the most challenging times of my life,” says Irene. “I wanted to leave the white and yellow roses to thank Sharon for more than I could ever say. The color white stands for purity and yellow for friendship. This bouquet is to thank my Samaritan family for the pure friendship they have shown me.”

We are so proud of Irene and all that she has accomplished. And we are all tremendously grateful for her friendship as well.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Friendships Bloom at Samaritan
- Bonds Take Members to Amazing Places
- A Million Thanks to Whole Foods
- New Life Enrichment Groups
- Meet Fran: Samaritan Volunteer
- Join Us for Our “Movie Night Gala”

SAMARITAN COMMUNITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Myshala Middleton, Esq., President
Marjorie Forster, Vice-President
Jeffrey Quinn, CPA/ABV, Treasurer
Alice Peake, Secretary

MEMBERS

Savonne Ferguson, Esq.
Pam Fleming
Elizabeth Goldsby
Joyce Hoebing
Steve Howard
Amy Krulak
Edwin Lewis
Terra Sims
Eric Somerville

The Rev. Grey Maggiano

Ex-Officio

Alma Bell

Advisor

Father Marty Demek

Advisor

Joyce Ramelmeier

Advisor

The Samaritan Community provides assistance to meet the needs of individuals and families who are in crisis and wish to improve their lives. Our program is rooted in respect, hope, and healing.

SAVE THE DATE!

Monday, May 21

Our Annual “Movie Night Gala” at The Charles

See Back Cover For Details

From Baltimore to Boston: Bonds Formed at Samaritan Take Members to Amazing Places



Eddie and Kathy visited the famous Faneuil Hall in Boston, a market and meeting place since 1743.

A lot is shared at Samaritan's weekly "Breakfast Club" besides a good meal. Participants also share their hopes, fears, and dreams. At one recent breakfast, Edie, a Samaritan member who has received assistance through our food pantry for the last several years and is always a positive presence was talking with Kathy, a long-time Samaritan volunteer member. It was then that Edie shared that she had never been on a plane before, but had always wanted to.

Soon after that conversation, they were both airborne and on their way to Boston, thanks to Kathy's inspiring generosity.

"With one small gesture, it was possible to make Edie's dream come true," says Kathy.

For Edie, the experience was exactly what she hoped it would be. She had absolutely no fear of flying and in fact, she didn't want to get off of the plane.

"It was so much fun! I had a window seat and was also able to watch basketball on the TV in front of my seat," remembers Edie.

In addition to the flight, Kathy and Edie walked much of the historic Freedom Trail from Boston Common to Faneuil Hall, including a visit to an historic graveyard. They also enjoyed a huge lunch of pizza and lasagna at the famous Quincy Market.

Whether right here at home in Baltimore or up north in Boston, the friendships forged at Samaritan are powerful. We just never know where they will take our members.



The ladies enjoyed a delicious lunch of pizza and lasagna at Quincy Market.



Samaritan Community Is On Facebook!
Like us at:
facebook.com/samaritancommunity

A Million Thanks to Whole Foods Market Mt. Washington



Coleen, food pantry volunteer, unloads the day's donations.

Samaritan Community has a million reasons to thank Whole Foods Market Mt. Washington. They have now donated more than \$1 million in fresh produce, wholesome breads, healthy shelf-stable items as well as dairy, poultry, and seafood to our food pantry. For the last six years, dedicated Samaritan volunteers have picked up the donations and brought them down to our pantry for distribution to hundreds of people in-need.

"We're so happy to partner with Samaritan on this effort to put our high-quality food to good use in our community", says Katie Davison, Metro Marketing Team Leader at Whole Foods Market Baltimore.

The food we receive through this relationship has, in many ways, changed the way we help our members. Our "Lunch Bunch" group introduces participants to healthy, new foods – which are available at our pantry specifically because of Whole Foods. We are also better able to provide more choices to members who have dietary restrictions.

"The word 'gratitude' doesn't begin to describe just how deeply appreciative we are," says Peter Dunn, Director of Community Relations for Samaritan Community. "The food and love we have received from Whole Foods has been transformative for those we serve."

Thank you, Whole Foods Market, for all you do.



Samaritan volunteer delivers donated bananas to Samaritan.

Samaritan's New Life Enrichment Groups: An Opportunity to Learn A New Skill & Get Much-Needed Support



The "Lunch Bunch" group learns how to make healthy meals on a budget by cooking and enjoying them together.

Since our inception, Samaritan has always been – at our core – a community. We believe that if members have a support system and others in which to confide and trust, they are more likely to overcome obstacles and ultimately lead the lives they want. It is this belief that led us to form our life enrichment groups.

What started out as two small groups, the "Lunch Bunch" and "Communication Club", has grown into seven life enrichment groups, all of which were recommended by members themselves. We now also offer "Fabric Arts", "Brain Games", "Shen Zhen Gong", "Arts & Crafts", and "Creative Writing & Poetry".

"I'm really happy with the success of our groups. They give members the chance to learn something new and are an important outlet for socialization, creativity, mindfulness, and energy," says Sharon Krieger, Program Director. What's really wonderful are the connections participants form with each other. They share their struggles and can relate to one another, all while sharing some laughs."

In fact, due to the popularity of these activities, we hope to add two more - the "Walking Group" and "Book Club" by this summer. We can't wait.



Our "Knitting Group" members showcase the beautiful hats, scarves, and wraps they have made.

Meet Fran: A Samaritan Volunteer with Many Roles



Fran is a woman of many hats at Samaritan. She works in our food pantry and development office.

Fran, who recently retired after more than 45 years as a librarian, started volunteering in Samaritan's development office about a year ago and has become a beloved and valuable member of the entire team. She is responsible for managing our donations and thanking our donors. And, after only a short time here, she wanted to do more. So, she asked to also be a food pantry volunteer, bagging food for members.

No matter what role she plays, she goes out of her way to learn about our members and forge a bond with them.

"I have gotten such joy from getting to know our wonderful members. They handle so many challenges with such grace, and are so warm and engaging," says Fran. "I'm glad I found this special place."

And everyone at Samaritan is glad Fran, and all of our volunteers, found us too!

SAMARITAN BY THE NUMBERS!

In 2017,
Samaritan Community:

- Distributed roughly 8,000 bags filled with fresh fruits and vegetables, wholesome breads, and high-quality proteins through 1,800 visits to our pantry as well as deliveries of surplus food to other social service organizations and low-income residences
- Supplied members and their families with gently-used clothing and household items through approximately 1,370 visits to our new and larger Clothing Shop
- Helped about 185 members address serious personal challenges through almost 1,400 sessions of individual counseling and build a support system through more than 1,500 visits to our support groups and life enrichment activities
- Provided an estimated 270 sessions of case management services, ranging from assisting with job searches to navigating the legal system
- Distributed more than \$38,000 in emergency financial assistance stipends designed to help members avert crises related to housing, utilities, medical care, education, employment, and more

**And we couldn't
have done it without
the ONE person
who really makes a
difference –
YOU!**